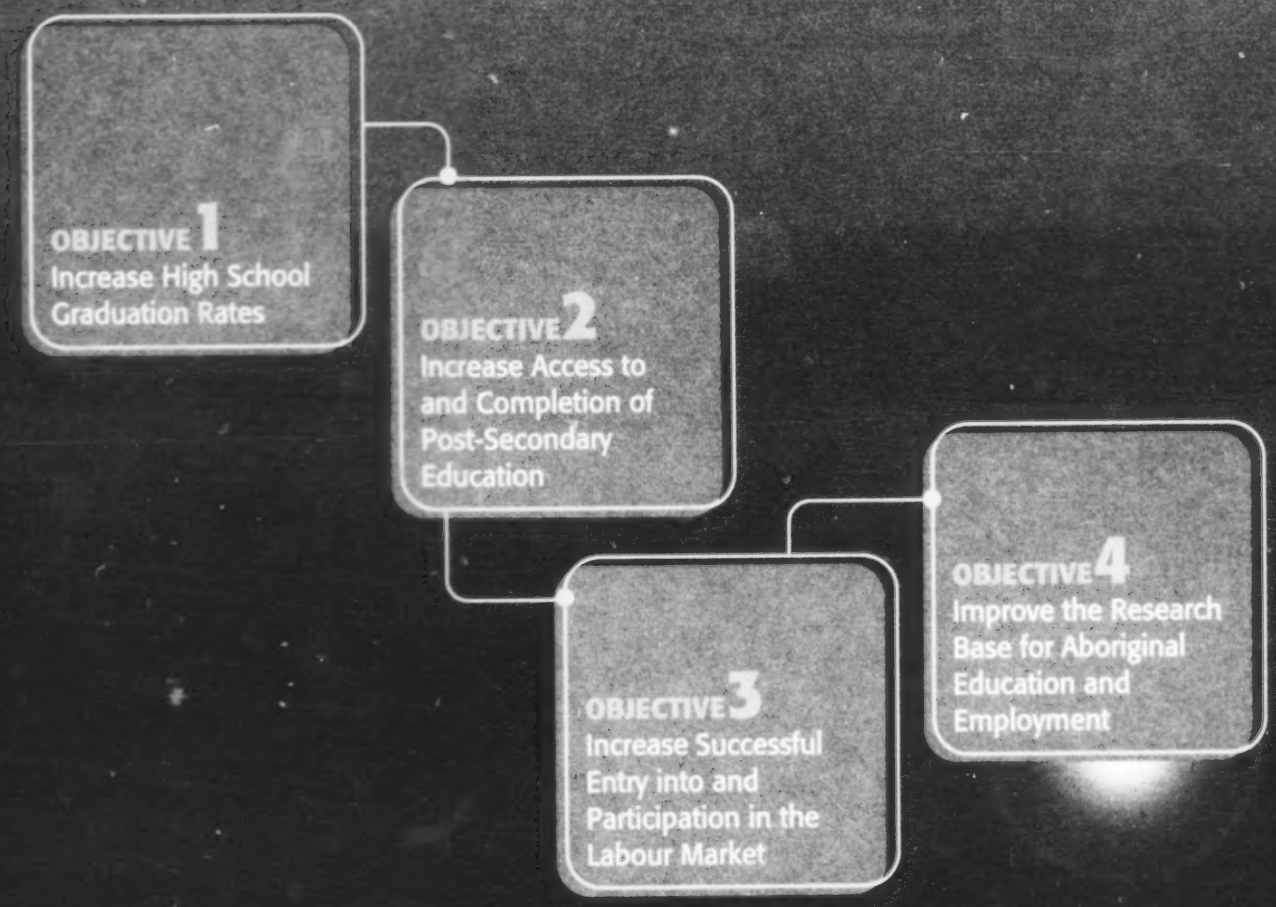
ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ACTION PLAN

YEAR 1: 2004-2005

HIGHLIGHTS REPORT


OBJECTIVE 1
Increase High School Graduation Rates
OBJECTIVE 2
Increase Access to and Completion of Post-Secondary Education
OBJECTIVE 3
Increase Successful Entry into and Participation in the Labour Market
OBJECTIVE 4
Improve the Research Base for Aboriginal Education and Employment

Manitoba
Building for the Future

The **Aboriginal Education Action Plan** (AEAP) was announced in October 2004. The Aboriginal Education Directorate provides overall co-ordination for the AEAP, which was developed to provide a comprehensive strategic approach to support improved outcomes for Aboriginal learners within the education system. This Highlights Report captures significant activities under the AEAP, to date.

OBJECTIVE 1: Increase High School Graduation Rates

Aboriginal Academic Achievement (AAA) Grant

MECY has increased funding for the Aboriginal Academic Achievement (AAA) categorical grant during the 2005/06 school year by $700,000. The total annual allotment is approximately $7.0 million. The AAA Grant is to assist School Divisions with current programming or the implementation of new programming to target academic success for Aboriginal students. School Divisions are required to submit program plans and evaluation reports. A new evaluation template has been developed to address the following: the measurable academic achievement outcomes, the nature of the programming to achieve the outcomes, the evaluation process and the extent to which plans are supported by community partners.

Making Education Work

"Making Education Work" is a research partnership of the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth and Manitoba Advanced Education and Training. The project goal is to improve high school graduation rates and success in post-secondary education. The research will explore the impact of community, family, academic and career interventions.

The research is being conducted in the high schools of six rural and northern communities: Cross Lake, Norway House, Peguis, Selkirk, Swan River and Thompson. Each school works in partnership with local Aboriginal community organizations.

Council of Aboriginal Educators

The Aboriginal Education Directorate Advisory Council was established in June 2004 to advise the Deputy Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth on issues related to Aboriginal education. The Council is made up of individuals who provide an important link between the K-S4 education system and the Aboriginal community in Manitoba. The Council also provides advice to the Department regarding implementation of the Aboriginal Education Action Plan.

Building Student Success with Aboriginal Parents

"Building Student Success with Aboriginal Parents" (BSSAP) was launched in the 2004-2005 school year to encourage Aboriginal parents and families to engage in the education process of their children and youth. The program is based on the principle that Aboriginal children will have more opportunities and achieve greater success when parents and families support their education. This year, the Province allocated $400,000 to 38 projects aimed at increasing the involvement of Aboriginal parents and families in schools across the Province.

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OBJECTIVE 2: Increase Access to and Completion of Post-Secondary Education

Murdo Scribe Centre Selkirk Avenue Office

A new office opened in April 2005 at 510 Selkirk Avenue. It houses the Aboriginal Education Directorate, and staff from Manitoba Student Aid, Partners for Careers and Employment and Training Services. Career development is one of several services offered to the community.

Aboriginal Adult Learning Centres

Manitoba Advanced Education and Training works with a variety of partners, including Aboriginal communities and organizations, to deliver appropriate adult high school programming through Manitoba's adult learning centres (ALCs). ALCs provide high school credit courses as well as dual credit courses where learners receive credit for both high school and post-secondary programs. Pathways are created to workplace training, post-secondary education and adult trades and apprenticeship options. ALCs are important sites of learning for Manitoba's Aboriginal population, with Aboriginal adults enrolled in 47 of 49 centres, averaging 40% of all ALC learners.

The ALC Act (July 2003) which provides the governance and accountability framework for ALCs, allows for not-for-profit organizations and First Nations to apply to register and operate an ALC. Peguis ALC was registered two years ago, in partnership with Assiniboine Community College. Beginning July 2004, the Aboriginal Community Campus of the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development and Yellowquill College ALCs were registered to operate as 'stand-alone' centres. The principles of self-governance exemplified in stand-alone registration enables greater autonomy in establishing programs and policies to more effectively meet the needs of the Aboriginal community.

OBJECTIVE 3: Increase Successful Entry into and Participation in the Labour Market

Apprenticeship Training

In November 2002 the Apprenticeship and Trades Qualification Board appointed an Aboriginal Apprenticeship Program Advisory Committee to promote training and employment opportunities in the skilled trades for northern Aboriginal peoples. The Committee makes recommendations to the Board regarding community-based training and other initiatives concerning Aboriginal and northern apprenticeship training.

Community-based training provides northern and rural First Nations and Metis apprentices the opportunity to complete the classroom component of their apprenticeship in or near their home communities. On-site training also provides communities with the opportunity to develop or enhance facilities that improve their local infrastructure.

The first community-based training programs for apprenticeship training began in 2002-2003. Since then, 10 northern and Aboriginal communities have participated in community-based training.

Early analysis of results indicate improved retention and completion rates in apprenticeship training programs and will lead to more certified tradespeople and apprentices in Aboriginal and northern communities.

The Apprenticeship Branch, in partnership with the Technical Vocational Initiative and Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth will participate in three regional dialogue sessions during November 2005. These sessions will be held in Winnipeg, Brandon and The Pas. These dialogue sessions will be used to determine how the program can be best tailored to address students' needs with particular attention to Aboriginal communities.

Aboriginal Liaison Officers (ALO)

Manitoba Advanced Education and Training works with industry sector associations, other Government departments and Aboriginal organizations to promote increased employment of Aboriginal people in the Manitoba economy. Based on the needs of each sector, barriers to Aboriginal participation are being identified and sector associations are being assisted to build business cases for increased representation of Aboriginal job seekers in meaningful employment. Agreements to support the work of Aboriginal Liaison Officers (ALOs) within industry sectors are in place with sectors such as Manitoba Aerospace Human Resource Coordinating Committee, Manitoba Audio Recording Industry Association, Manitoba Customer Contact Association, Arts and Cultural Industry of Manitoba, Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, Manitoba Food Processors Association and the Manitoba Tourism Education Council. Several agreements have also been established with Regional Health Authorities. This activity has raised awareness and interest within other industry sector associations and it is anticipated that the initiative will be expanded.

OBJECTIVE 4: Improve the Research Base for Aboriginal Education and Employment

Sponsor an Annual Research Forum

Manitoba Advanced Education and Training and Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth sponsored the first annual Aboriginal Education Research Forum – "Shawane Dagosiwin" – held in Winnipeg on June 1, 2, and 3, 2005. The theme for the Forum was "What is Aboriginal research and what does it mean to Aboriginal communities?" The research explored the inclusion of Aboriginal values and perspectives in conducting Aboriginal research. Keynote speakers included Drs. Marlene Brant Castellano (Mohawk) and Jo-ann Archibald (Sto:lo), both of whom have been very instrumental in promoting and developing respectful ways of conducting research with Aboriginal peoples.

For more information on the Aboriginal Education Action Plan or this Highlights Report please contact:

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